

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested in view of this amendment and the following reasons. By this amendment, claims 13-19 have been amended, and claims 1, 3-5, and 8-11 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 12-19 are pending in this application. The cancellation of claims 1, 3-5, and 8-11 is made without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

Claims 13-19 have been amended to depend upon claim 12, which is deemed allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the above amendments introduce no new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132.

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because it (a) places the application in *prima facie* condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise new issues requiring further search and/or consideration by the Examiner because similar subject matter was previously considered by the Examiner and thus further consideration and/or search by the Examiner is not warranted; and (c) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. For at least these reasons, entry of the present Amendment is therefore respectfully requested. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejections for the reasons discussed below.

***Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112***

Claims 13-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which

Applicants regards as the invention. Particularly, claims 13-19 are alleged duplicates of claims 3-5 and 8-11 since both sets of claims depend from 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-5 and 8-11 have been canceled and claims 13-19 have been amended to depend upon claim 12, which is deemed allowable, whereby the above reason for rejection has been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 13-19.

***Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102***

Claims 1, 3-5, 8-11, and 13-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,541,087 issued to Pophusen et al. ("Pophusen").

Applicants respectfully note that claims 1, 3-5, and 8-11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 13-19 have been amended to depend upon allowable claim 12 and thus are allowable for at least this reason.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claims 13-19. Since none of the other prior art of record discloses or suggests all the features of the claimed subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 12, and all the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicants appreciate the indication that claim 12 contains allowable subject matter.

Hence, claims 13-19 are also allowable at least because they depend from claim 12.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 12-19 are in condition for allowance.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submit that all of the stated grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

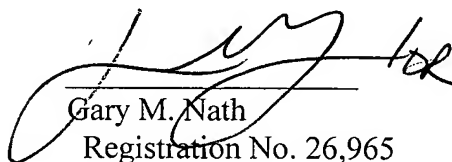
Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,  
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